



Risk Science Center
Department of Environmental Health
University of Cincinnati College of
Medicine
PO Box 670056
Cincinnati, Ohio 45267-0056

160 Panzeca Way
Kettering Lab Building, Suite G-24
<http://med.uc.edu/eh/centers/tera>

Dear Senator Carper

I appreciate your interest in Toxicology Excellence for Risk Assessment (TERA). As you may know, TERA is a nonprofit 501c3 organization with a mission to support the protection of public health by developing, reviewing and communicating risk assessment values and analyses; improving risk methods through research; and, educating risk assessors, managers, and the public on risk assessment issues. TERA was founded on the belief that an independent nonprofit organization can provide a unique function to protect human health by conducting scientific research and development on risk issues in a transparent and collaborative fashion. One-third of TERA's effort has been for industries; 2/3rds has been for government groups.

In 21 years as an independent and science neutral group, TERA published numerous reports, manuscripts, presentations and education courses, created 5 freely accessible websites, and garnered the sponsorship of over 50 government groups and as many industries and nonprofit organizations. We were often the go-to group for government-industry collaborations such as the perchlorate research program in the late 1990s, the West Virginia PFOA contamination in the early 2000's, and EPA's Voluntary Children's Chemical Evaluation Program in the mid 2000's. TERA also conducted the independent peer review of the 9-government report on the world trade center disaster and the recent Elk River spill in West Virginia. TERA has received many accolades and hundreds of scientists and managers from both government and industry can attest to its independent and science-neutral approach. Even staff of NRDC has commented privately that TERA websites were visited often since they contained so much valuable information.

Please find attached responses to you questions, including a disk of related information. I would be more than happy to answer additional questions from you or your hard-working staff, either before or after the tentatively scheduled committee meeting later this month.

Cheers!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Michael L. Dourson'.

Michael L. Dourson, Ph.D., DABT, FATS, FSRA
Professor of Environmental Health

